

Age of European Exploration

Exotic trade goods from Southeast Asia—the **Indies**—and from East Asia were highly desired by Western Europeans. These goods were extremely expensive.

- Competing European powers developed new technologies in shipbuilding and navigation that allowed them to explore new routes to the Indies.
- Europeans encountered American, African, and Asian cultures they had never known before.
- Often the European power that first explored an area later returned to conquer it.



A Merchants in Central Asia and the Middle East controlled trade from the Indies to Europe (see page 43). Europeans wanted to bypass them to increase their own profits.

The Riches of the Indies 1400–1500

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------|
| Gold | Perfume |
| Silver | Spices |
| Precious stones | Cotton |
| Ivory | Silk |
| Porcelain | Trade route |

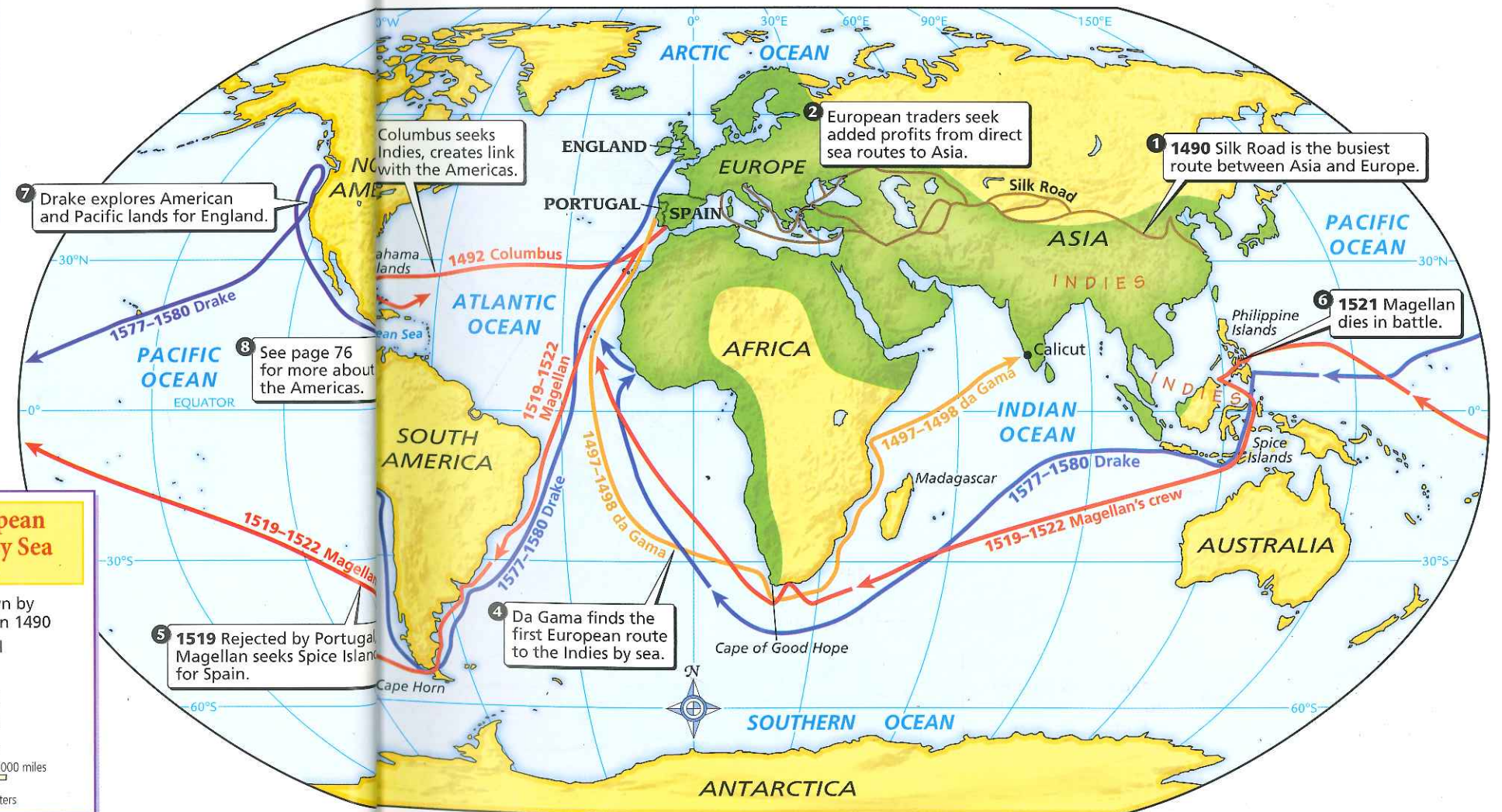
Whose land is it?

When European explorers arrived in an area, they claimed it for their country. For years most **claims** were just lines on European maps. The people already living in those areas didn't realize they had new rulers until European soldiers arrived to enforce their paper claims.

B The map shows the key voyages of discovery that gave Europeans more complete knowledge of geography than ever before. Which countries explored which areas?

Western European Explorations by Sea 1490–1580

- Lands known by Europeans in 1490
 - for Portugal
 - for Spain
 - for England
 - Trade route
- Scale at the Equator
0 1000 2000 miles
0 1000 2000 kilometers



C Spices from the Indies, such as cloves, cinnamon, and pepper, were worth as much as gold to Western Europeans. Kings sponsored explorations to win control of the spice trade.



D Francis Drake of England meets with a sultan in the Indies to discuss trade. His voyage provided new knowledge about the western coast of North America and the Pacific.

